

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) ~~Method—A method~~ of assaying nucleic acids by molecular hybridization, ~~characterized by the fact that it includes the following step which comprises:~~
 - taking samples of biological material by a sampling device (1; 13) comprising abrasive sampling means (2; 15, 16) capable of retaining biological material in the form of cells;
 - isolating nucleic acids from the cells; and
 - assaying the nucleic acids by molecular hybridization.
2. (Currently amended) ~~Method—The method~~ according to Claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein~~ the sampling of biological material is done in the surrounding air.
3. (Currently amended) ~~The method~~ according to any of claims 1 or 2~~claim 1~~, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein~~ the sampling is done outside of a laboratory where the assaying will be done, and ~~in that the method includes a step of transport offurther comprising transporting~~ the abrasive sampling means (2; 15, 16) loaded with their respective samples of biological material to said laboratory.
4. (Currently amended) ~~Method—The method~~ according to any of the preceding claims, ~~characterized by the fact that it furthermore includes a step of claim 1, further comprising~~ extraction of the nucleic acids, comprising the steps of:
 - ~~an immersion step into an extraction buffer of immersing~~ the abrasive sampling means (2; 15, 16) loaded with their respective samples of biological material into an extraction buffer,
 - ~~a step of agitation in agitating~~ the extraction buffer,
 - ~~a separation step separating the nucleic acids~~, and
 - ~~a recovery step for recovering~~ clarified solution containing the nucleic acids.
5. (Currently amended) ~~Method—The method~~ according to Claim 4, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein~~ the separation step consists ~~in of~~ a centrifugation, and the supernatant constitutes the clarified solution.
6. (Currently amended) ~~Method—The method~~ according to any of the preceding claims, ~~characterized by the fact that Claim 1, wherein~~ the assaying by molecular hybridization is done by polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

7. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized by the fact that the assaying of nucleic acids ~~Claim 1~~, further comprising determining the presence of a pathogenic agent in the biological material by the molecular hybridization is done in order to determine the presence of a pathogenic agent in the biological material.
8. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized by the fact that ~~Claim 1~~, wherein the biological material consists of material of plant origin.
9. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ A kit for implementing the method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~, characterized by the fact that it ~~Claim 1~~ which comprises a sampling device (1; 12) comprising abrasive sampling means (2; 14,15) able to retain biological material in the form of cells.
10. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to Claim 9, characterized by the fact that ~~wherein~~ the sampling means (2; 16, 17) comprise a solid material having comprising an abrasive outer surface.
11. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to Claim 11, characterized by the fact that ~~wherein~~ the solid material is chosen selected from the group consisting of silica, glass, metals, carbon fibers and plastics.
12. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to any of claims 10 and 11 ~~Claim 10~~, characterized by the fact that ~~wherein~~ the abrasive outer surface comprises asperities able to retain hardness capable of retaining cells of biological material.
13. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to any of claims 9 to 12 ~~Claim 9~~, characterized by the fact that ~~wherein~~ the sampling device (2, 13) comprises a support (3,5,6 ;14,17) able to support the abrasive sampling means (2; 15,16).
14. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to any of claims 9 to 13 ~~Claim 9~~, characterized by the fact that it comprises further comprising means (11) for the transport of the abrasive sampling means (2; 15, 16).
15. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to any of claims 9 to 14 ~~Claim 9~~, characterized by the fact that it comprises further comprising means of identification of the abrasive sampling means.

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16. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to ~~any of claims 9 to 15~~ Claim 9, characterized by the fact that it comprisesfurther comprising extraction buffer for assaying nucleic acids by hybridization.

17. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 9, characterized by the fact that it comprisesfurther comprising specific reagents of PCR reactions.